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Stan Lee presents

# EXCALIBUR

BETSY BRADDOCK  
A.K.A.  
PSYLOCKE.

BRIAN BRADDOCK  
A.K.A.  
CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

BROTHER AND  
SISTER...TWINS.

BOTH  
POSSESSED  
OF AWESOME  
POWERS.

POWERS THEY  
NOW UNLEASH  
UPON EACH  
OTHER.

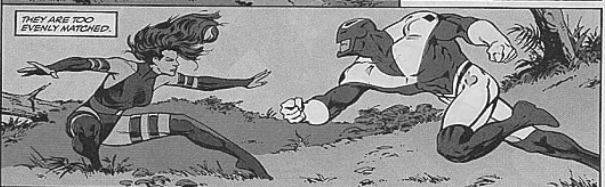
## THE GHOST OF BRADDOCK MANOR.

30TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
1962 - 1992



THE AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN

THIS ISSUE IS SO FULL OF  
ACTION AND SUSPENSE, I'M  
AFRAID WE HAVE NO ROOM  
FOR A COVER. WE APOLOGIZE  
FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.  
--TERRY



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VICTORY CAN  
ONLY BE WON...

...BY EXPLOITING A  
CARELESS MOVE...



...OR A  
MOMENT'S  
HESI-  
TATION.



YOU  
CAN'T  
WIN.

MY TELEPATHIC  
ABILITIES ALLOW ME  
TO ANTICIPATE YOUR  
NEXT MOVE AND REACT  
BEFORE--



-- $k = R/N_A 1.380658(12) \times 10^{-23} \text{J/K}^*$ --



THAT'S THE  
SI UNIT VALUE FOR  
THE BOLTZMANN  
CONSTANT.\*

I THOUGHT IT  
MIGHT CONFUSE  
YOU.

\*AN EQUATION THAT CALCULATES  
THE MOLECULAR DENSITY OF A  
GAS. --TERRY



NOW, DO  
I CRUSH YOUR  
HEAD--



OR  
DO I PUNCH  
MY PSYCHIC  
KNIFE INTO  
YOURS?



I TOLD YOU  
I'D TOUGHENED  
UP SINCE WE  
WERE TOGETHER  
LAST.



YOU'VE CERTAINLY  
CHANGED.

YOU HAVE TOO.  
NOT PHYSICALLY,  
BUT INSIDE.



THAT'S WHY  
I ASKED YOU  
TO COME.

WE'VE  
ALWAYS SHARED  
A PSYCHIC  
BOND--

--YOU KNOW  
ME BETTER  
THAN I KNOW  
MYSELF.

ESPECIALLY  
NOW...



...BETSY, I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHO I AM  
ANMORE.

I USED TO  
THINK OF MYSELF  
AS INTELLIGENT,  
LOGICAL...IN  
CONTROL.

BUT MY FIRST  
REACTION TO ALMOST  
ANY CRISIS IS  
VIOLENCE.



I DON'T  
THINK I ACT—IT'S  
INSTINCTIVE.

I'VE TRIED  
TO DENY IT...

...BUT THE  
FACT IS, I ENJOY  
FIGHTING.

IT'S  
IN OUR  
BLOOD.

WE ARE  
DESCENDED FROM  
THE WARRIOR CASTE  
OF OTHERWORLD.

OUR PRIVILEGED LIFE  
HERE, AT BRADDOCK MAN-  
OR, INSULATED US FROM  
THE RAVAGES OF THE  
REAL WORLD...

...SO WE  
CULTIVATED A  
VENEER OF BRITISH  
RESERVE.

BUT IT WAS  
A PRETENSE.

IT WAS  
MANIPULATION!

DAD WAS  
MERLYN'S AGENT.  
OUR LIVES WERE  
PART OF A PLAN.

BUT  
MERLYN IS  
OUT OF THE  
PICTURE  
NOW.

I  
CERTAINLY  
HOPE SO.

YES... FOR THE  
FIRST TIME, MY  
LIFE IS MY OWN.

I CAN  
BE MYSELF.

I ALWAYS FELT I WAS IN  
COMPETITION WITH JAMIE.  
HE SEEMED TO BE SO SMART  
AND SOPHISTICATED WHEN  
WE WERE KIDS.

SO  
WAS  
I.

YOU  
GREW OUT  
OF IT.

MAYBE  
THAT'S WHY  
YOU FEEL SO  
INSECURE.

AND NOT A  
PALE IMITATION  
OF YOUR  
BIG BROTHER.

JAMIE KNEW  
HOW TO ENJOY  
HIMSELF, BUT  
HE WAS AN  
ARROGANT  
SNOB.

THANK  
YOU.







NOT FAR BEYOND  
THE MANOR'S WEST  
WING...

THIS PLACE  
IS BEAUTIFUL.

IT WAS KIND  
OF BRIAN TO ALLOW  
SA'TNEEN TO REST  
HERE, BESIDE HIS  
PARENTS.

DO YOU  
MISS YOUR  
Cousin,  
KYLIN?

MORE  
THAN WORDS  
CAN SAY.  
CERISE,  
SA'TNEEN  
WAS MY  
CHOSEN  
LIFE-MATE.

ON MY WORLD,  
NEITHER MALE NOR  
FEMALE FORMS  
EMOTIONAL BONDS.

THAT IS  
TO YOUR  
LOSS.

IF BONDING  
IS SO IMPORTANT,  
WHY ARE YOU  
LEAVING? YOU  
HAVE FRIENDS  
HERE.

I HAVE  
FAMILY IN  
SCOTLAND.

I MUST LET  
THEM KNOW I AM  
ALIVE - BUT LORD  
KNOWS HOW THEY  
WILL RECEIVE  
ME.

I WAS STOLEN  
FROM THEM ONLY  
A YEAR AGO AS  
AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD,  
FRECKLE-FACED  
CHILD.

CAN YOU NOT  
AT LEAST STAY FOR  
THE PARTY AND TO  
BID THE OTHERS  
FAREWELL?

GO FOR  
THE LOOP.  
HA HA!

SA'TNEEN

NO, I'M NOT  
IN THE MOOD FOR  
FRIVOLITY.

TELL  
KURT I'LL BE  
IN TOUCH.

GOODBYE,  
CERISE.



I'M BEING  
COURT-  
MARTIALED.

**COURT-  
MARTIALED?!**

SHUGG!

**COURT-  
MARTIALED?!**

INFORMATION WAS LEAKED.  
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE  
POINTS TO ME.

I GOT TO KNOW  
NICK FURY WHEN I WAS  
A JUNIOR OFFICER  
ATTACHED TO S.H.I.E.L.D.  
AS A K.A.T.O. LIAISON.

THEN, DURING THE 'AIR  
WALKER' AFFAIR, FURY  
OFFERED ME LIMITED USE  
OF A S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICAP-  
TIVE'S SURVEILLANCE  
SYSTEMS.\*\*

IT WAS ALREADY  
IN BRITISH AIRSPACE  
ON OTHER BUSINESS.\*\*

\*EXCALIBUR SPECIAL EDITION,  
"AIR APPARENT"  
\*\*NOTMOUTH #1, --TERRY

I'VE BEEN CHARGED WITH  
SUPPLYING INFORMATION  
THAT MAY COMPROMISE  
THE SECURITY OF THE  
REALM.

SPYING,  
SELLING STATE  
SECRETS. WHO  
TO?

S.H.I.E.L.D.

HOW? WHY?  
I MEAN...



SO YOU'VE BEEN  
ACCUSED OF PAYING  
OFF S.H.I.E.L.D.  
WITH SECRETS.

YES.

WHAT  
ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO?

HAVE A  
SHOWER, PUT  
ON MY BEST  
FROCK AND  
WAR PAINT...

...AND  
ENJOY THE  
PARTY.

ALYSDANE!

I'LL BE DOWN  
IN FIFTEEN  
MINUTES.

WHO,  
OPERATES ON  
A SHOESTRING  
BUDGET.

WE WOULDN'T  
HAVE LOCATED CAYRE  
OR HIS CREATIONS  
WITHOUT S.H.I.E.L.D.'S  
ADVANCED  
TECHNOLOGY.









SINCE BIRTH, FERON WAS PREPARED IN MONASTIC ISOLATION, FOR A SINGLE MOMENT IN TIME--

--THE MOMENT WHEN HE WAS DESTINED TO HOST THE PHOENIX FORCE--

--BUT THAT MOMENT HAS PASSED.

HIS HERITAGE WAS LOST TO ANOTHER.

NOW, HE BROODS ON HIS SORRY FLIGHT...

...AND PONDER'S ON THE FATE HIS FUTURE HOLDS.

HA HA HA

BUT THE ONLY CERTAINTY IN LIFE...

...IS THAT FATE HAS A NASTY HABIT OF TURNING ALL OUR EXPECTATIONS...

WHUD  
...ON THEIR HEADS.

HA HA HA



COURT-MARTIAL?

HOW COULD THEY?! IT'S INSANE.

SURELY ALYSDANE'S LOYALTY IS BEYOND DOUBT. HER DEVOTION TO DUTY AND HEROISM ARE A MATTER OF RECORD.



RIGHT, SHE RISKED HER LIFE ALONGSIDE EXCALIBUR ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS...

...AND SHE FOUGHT THE REAVERS WITH THE X-MEN.

I'M STUNNED, REALLY...



...WHO WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT ALYSDANE.

SHE SAW THE NEED FOR A TACTICAL FORCE OF SCIENTISTS AND LATERAL THINKERS...

...TO ANTICIPATE, DETECT AND ANALYZE THE BIZARRE MYSTERIES THAT LIE BEYOND THE FRINGES OF MAN'S CURRENT KNOWLEDGE.



I'M SORRY...I'M RANTING...

THIS IS ALL A BIT OF A SHOCK.

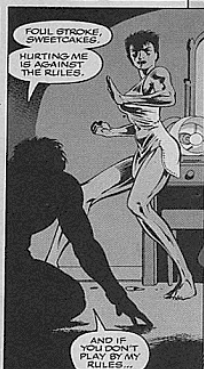
DON'T TELL ALYSDANE I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE, ER...

...YOU KNOW...



SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SPOIL THE PARTY.



















ALAN DAVIS  
WRITER/ARTIST

MARK FARMER  
INKER

GLYNIS OLIVER  
COLORIST

MICHAEL HEISLER  
LETTERER

TERRY KAVANAGH  
EDITOR

TOM D'FALCO  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

CHRIS CLAREMONT & ALAN DAVIS  
CO-CREATORS

NEXT ISSUE:  
THINGS THAT GO **SHRIEK** IN THE NIGHT



# SWORD STOKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP

387 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH  
EDITOR  
MARK POWERS  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Terry and Mark,

Usually, I am so distracted by Alan's beautiful artwork that I often overlook his writing skills. However, EXCALIBUR #51, "Don't Drink the Water," was flawless and his pencils didn't touch a page. I'll never take his writing for granted again.

Todd Maxwell  
3230 Overland  
Los Angeles, CA 90034

High praise indeed, Todd! Thanks!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I just read EXCALIBUR #51 and I loved it! Having a dinosaur version of the team was great! Actually, it's my personal opinion that the dinosaurs are the real Excalibur, and the team we see every issue is just a human version. I can't wait for issue #52 where Excalibur meets the X-Men in person (finally). Are we finally going to get the whole story on Phoenix? You said we would, but we've been told that before and I usually end up more confused than ever.

Well, until Kurt runs out of puns, Mark Mine Marvel!

Angela Desai  
127 Ann Dr.  
Richboro, PA 18954

Hope issue #52 fulfilled your every expectation, Angela!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Re: Issue #51...

A story within a story, with a reptilian Excalibur (of Earth 99476). Not bad! In fact, fantastic! And, of course, tying up yet another loose end, what with the Griswald family. Cool. (Wow!) Soon there will be no more sub-plots lying around.

It would appear that Brian and Meggan's problems are behind them (page 18, panel 3). The artwork was great (even if it wasn't by Alan Davis and Mark Farmer) for the dinosaurs. And even as a parallel-universe dinosaur, Reed Richards was still himself. And his final line! "Should our species become extinct...nothing would remain." Alan Davis is still a funny man! And, of course, Dai Thomas was absolutely right (page 26, panels 4 & 6).

One comment: occasionally readers have written in griping about Captain Britain's alcoholism, his bull-headed ways, his lack of teamwork. The curse Roma put on him aside, if you take a look at the Captain Britain Trade Paperback, you will find a man more than capable of leading Excalibur. He may not be perfect, but then again, if he were, he wouldn't be who he is. And as for those who wish for Meggan and Nightcrawler to be a couple — before Excalibur came along, Cap and Meggan were very happy together. And of course, Nightcrawler does have a girlfriend, remember? (Where is Amanda Setton, anyway?)

As always, thank you for listening, and keep up the good work!

Bud Conklin  
4085 Braxton Rd.  
Chantilly, VA 22021

You comments on Brian are thoughtful and well put, Bud! As for Amanda Setton...with her magical abilities, she's bound to pop up when we — and Nightcrawler — least expect it!

Dear EXCALIBUR,

I think that the best comic to ever be put on the rack is:

Excellent  
Cool  
Awesome  
Likely to be the best  
Incredible  
Best  
Ultimate  
Rad

Chris Berotti  
21 Ormond St.  
Dix Hills, NY 11746

Creative, Chris!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Hey, EXCALIBUR #51 was a blast! Even though this issue lacked the fine talents of Alan Davis's pencils and the embellishments of Mark Farmer, I still thoroughly enjoyed this tale.

It was a nice change of pace to see the story focus around a totally different group of characters. Alan Davis's use of alternate realities and time-lines in this issue was perfectly plotted. The story was fun, entertaining, and quite interesting. I also enjoyed the way in which the dinosaur Excalibur team reacted to the humans — which is much the same way we would have reacted to them (and did at the end of the story).

Please keep Alan on duty 24 hours a day if he can manage to pull off great one-issue stories like this. Perhaps we will see even more of Earth 99476's Excalibur in the future!  
Mike Farmer  
8745 Lake Glen Court  
Alpharetta, GA 30202

Nearly all the readers who wrote to us about issue #51 enjoyed Alan Davis's writing as much. If not more, than his artwork! You're in good company, Mike!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Gee, to think I was just getting used to the mushroom.

Laura R. Sherman  
119 Wells Dr.  
So. Plt., NJ 07060

Hmm, Laura...what can we say?

Dear Sword Strokes,

This is not another of those "Wow, what a great issue number whatever was," but a sincere letter of thanks to Alan Davis and Mark Farmer. I was lucky enough to make it to the recent "Event of the Decade" here in England, namely a gathering of comic fans under one roof at Alexandra Palace in London.

My day started at 6:00 am to enable me to catch the 7:30 am train to Victoria Station, London. I then went by Tube to Kingscross to meet my partner in comic collecting, Richard, who had a 5 hour train journey from Scotland to see our heroes in the flesh.

We arrived at 10:30 am to a surprisingly sparse crowd, except, that is, around the Jim Lee signings and also the Alan Davis/Mark Farmer table. We queued up and waited and waited and waited — picking up Alan Grant's autograph as we waited — until finally, we got to say hi to Alan and Mark. They had been signing book after book ad infinitum and doing sketches for just about everybody for hours.

Okay, the bottom line is we (Richard and I) really appreciated the way those guys worked so hard for us fans — the signed copies of EXCALIBUR and the sketches Alan and Mark did for me are the pride of my collection.

Thanks again, guys.

Neville Peacock  
166 First Lane  
Hessle, N. Humberston  
England HU13 9EU

We wish we could take credit for Alan and Mark's kindness and consideration — but we can't! They're just great guys! Thanks for sharing your experience with us, Neville!

Dear Sword Strokes,

This is Gregg Spillane again. I just finished reading EXCALIBUR #51, and I know I'm going to love EXCALIBUR #52. I'm going to hate it also, because (sniff, sniff) I'm going to miss the member that's (hoit on, gotta blow my nose) leaving with the X-Men that are coming. I've narrowed it down to three characters. It can't be Captain Britain because he is named after England, and it can't be Meggan because she stays with Brian. It can't be Colossus and Kylon, because they are the new characters in the comic. So it must be (wahh! boo hoo sniff!) Shadowcat, Nightcrawler, or Phoenix. (Sorry, but sometimes I get a little upset when someone messes with my super heroes.)

Gregg Spillane  
109 Park Shore Dr., East  
Columbia, SC 29223

As everyone knows by now, it was Phoenix who left in issue #52 — for the stars, as opposed to returning to the X-Men. Hope you've recovered somewhat, Gregg, and enjoyed that issue.

Make sure you tune in to next issue's Sword Strokes — you won't believe the response we're getting on the Phoenix story! Some of you loved it, some hated it, but everyone seems to have an opinion! We promise this page will make even more interesting reading next month!

NEXT ISSUE: Shadowcat alone — against the combined forces of Jamie Braddock, Vixen and Set-yr-yl!